

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

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WITHIN THE WEEK

The revived drive of Allied forces in Italy, which we had been anticipating, started slowly, but appears to be gaining momentum. As this is written, Germans admit fall of Cassino. It is presumed that they have also abandoned Monastery mtn above the city. As is often the case in intensified drives, the Allied troops appear to have outrun the communiques. Our losses have been heavy, of course, but Eric Sevareid, CBS commentator adds, in this connection, "you should see the truckloads of dazed, exhausted German prisoners."

The next immediate objective of Allied forces will be the Adolf Hitler line, which is not a line in the strict sense of the term. It is a 12-mi span of secondary defenses, which the Nazis have prepared over an extended period in anticipation of precisely the situation which has developed.

It will be interesting to observe our progress along this particular sector of the road to Rome, because the terrain is such that the enemy presumably must count heavily upon artificial barriers. Here we may expect to see Nazi ingenuity exemplified on a new scale. It is, in a limited sense a preview of obstacles which our forces may anticipate in their western invasion efforts.

From developments of the wk in Italy it would appear that armored forces of the British Eighth

Army will make the primary attack, aided and abetted by the Franco-American Fifth Army. It is to be presumed that the plan calls for continued advancement, thru the Hitler line and upon Rome itself. To encompass anything short of this objective would not appear to justify the present concentration of strength.

The question naturally arises, What is back of this new transfusion of lifeblood into our Italian forces? What is the plan? What can be accomplished? Obviously this can be nothing short of a guessing contest, tho it is probable that objectives are both psychological and physical. Meanwhile, one very practical consideration is evident: Our activity has forced the enemy to divert an estimated 25 divisions to Italy, thus denying these forces to either the Russian front or the western defenses.

Theoretically, 25 divisions might total 375,000 men, but the actual number is doubtless substantially smaller. It is worth noting here that while the talk of Nazi power is still in terms of "300 divisions," many of these divisions are known to be of only fractional strength.

U S NAVY: Confirmation of Forrestal probably means a somewhat less articulate spokesman for the Navy, but appointment is generally regarded with favor. Feeling is that dep't will progress and prosper under his direction.



SHIFTING SANDS

The long-range food outlook is not nearly so promising as average citizen may be led to believe. Taking food producing area as a whole, we're nearly a month behind with spring planting. In some instances, even with good growing weather, this late start is certain to result in reduced yield. One of the most serious considerations may be a shortage of feed for livestock. Matter of fact, present lifting of rationing on meat results from shortage of feed, which forces surplus livestock on mkt. Means abundance now, but subsequent scarcity. " " " There's behind-the-scenes battle between ODT and OPA on gas rationing. OPA wants to ease a bit, but transportation group is scared stiff at rapid obsolescence of cars; fear a breakdown of private transportation if people are given more gasoline to put more miles on cars. Situation is really serious. Probability is we'll get a little more gas, a lot more lecturing on conservation within next 6 or 8 wks. . .



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"I have never felt so far gone."—**MOHANDAS K GANDHI**, quoted shortly after his release from British custody.

"She can't play a thing. We've had a wonderful married life for 19 yrs."—**MISCHA ELMAN**, violinist, speaking of his wife.

"This is such a thankless job that I appreciate it every time I see a dog wagging his tail."—**HON HUMPHREY MITCHELL**, Canada's Minister of Labor.

"Only man knows that things are getting worse. The birds wake up and sing every morning, and the animals begin anew with each rising sun."—**CHAS F KETTERING**.

"It was like denying my faith, but it had to be done."—A desert veteran of British 8th Army, commenting on order to remove all identifying insignia to keep secret that they had shifted from Adriatic to Italy's central sector.

"This being 'Miss America' isn't all it's cracked up to be. Winning the title changes a girl's life too much, too fast."—**JO-CARROLL DENISON**, small-town stenog who won Atlantic City title in '42. Now in Hollywood, she has had small parts in 3 films.

"The Axis powers must be completely disarmed. We do not want to take from them all hope for the future; we do not want to make them into slaves of the victors. But we must take away from them their weapons and so deprive them of the means of again destroying the peace of mankind."—**CYRIL FORSTER GARBETT**, Archbishop of York.

"Poverty anywhere constitutes a threat to prosperity everywhere."—From the Internat'l Labor Organization charter, adopted at a conference of representatives from 41 countries. For its endeavors the group won hearty approval from Pres Roosevelt. (Russia was not a participant in the conference. A representative from Argentina was barred because of his country's Fascist leanings.)

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

"Have we forgotten how to laugh?" — Editorial query in *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*.

"He's the best qualified man in this country to handle the remainder of the war and to negotiate the peace."—**PAUL V McNUTT**, War Manpower Commissioner, endorsing Pres Roosevelt for a 4th term.

"There are now more than 10 times the number of American bombers that made the 1st attack on Bremen."—From a joint report of British air ministry and U S air force.

"The WAC teaches us to obey orders, but it also teaches us how to give them. After the war, I wouldn't take orders from my husband even if he were—well, a 2nd Lt."—**PIC OLIVIA D LIMA**, *N Y Daily News*.

"All men have a desire to spit once in awhile. Some of us forget we had on those GI snoods. It was right embarrassing."—Mbr of 84th Infantry Div, Camp Clairborne, La, commenting on gov't issued "head nets" distributed as protection against malaria-carrying mosquito.

"I am being punished for doing something for my church. If Stalin hears things like this he will be irritated—we may lose what we have gained."—**FATHER STANISLAUS ORLEMANSKI**, Polish-American priest, suspended by his bishop as a result of an unauthorized flying visit to Moscow to confer with Premier Stalin. (Father Orlemanski asserts an agreement was reached with the Russian Premier not to persecute the Catholic church anywhere in Russia.)

"He doesn't even make me dizzy."—**JERRY O'SHEA**, pretty young sec'y to **FRANK SINATRA**.

"Russia is the most isolationist country in the world—they give collaboration only to the extent that it will help them."—*America*, nat'l Catholic weekly.

"And we don't intend to stand still!"—American fighter in s-w Pacific commenting on order to change from mottled jungle uniform to one of olive drab. Mottled design, it is explained, is effective only as long as the wearer remains motionless.

"I found bodies piled up like the carcasses of hogs which used to die from cholera back in Iowa."—Sgt **JOHN HOSSLE**, of Red Oak, Ia., first-aid man, assigned to an American unit cut down by German machine-gun fire as it attacked across a narrow stream, in Italy.

"The Army has not yet, and perhaps never will have all the women it could use. . . We could use thousands of them on jobs now held by men."—**HENRY L STIMSON**, Sec'y of War, in a statement implying that Army would prefer women trained in needed skills to 4-F men now engaged in essential industries.

"The German soldier . . . is immune to the danger of mixing up music with the rhythmical grunting of a mud-wallowing pig, and of regarding it as art, or even culture."—*Das Schwarze Korps*, organ of the Nazi SS (elite guard) commenting on rumor that Nazi soldiers are acquiring fondness for officially despised American swing music.

"We should be on guard about the things we say to men released from service. On the other hand, women shouldn't be little pseudopsychologists. We don't want the men to feel they are being 'handled' all the time, or to develop a hot-house attitude toward themselves. The main idea is to keep the atmosphere normal and relaxed."—**DR JANET FOWLER NELSON**, *N Y psychologist*.

"Of course I'll go back. That trip to Paris four times a yr is good for the soul—and besides, it's a good excuse for a holiday."—HATTIE CARNEGIE, dean of U S fashion designers, anticipating postwar ret'n to French fashion center.

"The Navy has been so successful that today the Japanese outer Pacific defenses have been beaten down to the level of a line of defense in name only."—JAS V FORRESTAL, newly-confirmed Sec'y of Navy, at 1st press conference.

"The American nations have a common destiny. They are locked together by ties of friendship and self-interest. It is clear that the foundation of the foreign policy of the U S must be the policy of the good neighbor; and that while we hope this will become world-wide, it will always be applied to the American group of countries. So far as the U S is concerned, no policy can be sound unless it takes acct of this basic reality." — ADOLF A BERLE, Ass't Sec'y of State, speaking before the Inter-American Development Commission.

"He makes my life miserable!"—JOAN FONTAINE, Hollywood actress, seeking divorce from BRIAN AHERNE, whom she once termed "the finest husband in the world."

"This is the greatest single contribution Dies has ever made to the welfare of the nation."—PHILLIP MURRAY, CIO President, commenting on decision of Rep MARTIN DIES to retire at conclusion of his present term. Statement was made at a meeting of United Steel Workers which endorsed v-p HENRY WALLACE for reelection.

"The Legion condemns a system where the first cry of a newborn baby is greeted by a knock on the door by a landlord who will go into court to eject the family because it has a baby."—From a resolution adopted by a dept of American Legion, which purposes a concerted drive against the practice of barring children from apartments, and other urban rental properties.

"Two people . . . on my list answered with a single succinct monosyllable—'Russia'."—JOHN GUNTHER, in *D Day*.

"The English climate is not a bad thing providing you can escape from it now and then."—London Correspondent of *Financial Post*.

"No matter what youngster is crying, every mother is sure it's hers."—A Nurse at the newly-opened maternity hospital, Ft McPherson, Ga.

"Victory will come sooner, and will cost less in lives and materials because we have pooled our resources as united nations to defeat the enemy."—FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT, signing a 3rd extension of the Lend-Lease act.

"We're not going to let any bureaucratic barriers stand between the ret'd wounded soldier and every comfort that it is possible to give him. There aren't going to be any apple sellers on the corner if we can prevent it, and there aren't going to be any wounded soldiers sleeping in parks or lodged in jails."—Lt-Gen BREHON B SUMERVELL, chief, Army Service Forces.

"The American people do not want a gov't to tell newspapers what to print, for that would be a fettered press. They do not want business or labor to tell newspapers what to print, for that would be a dominated press. They do not want publishers and editors to withhold news based on their prejudices, because that would be a restricted press. The public wants a free press in fact."—HALFORD HOUSER, in *Editor & Publisher*.

"Joe, I don't care a damn about the Navy and you don't care a damn about the Army. You run your machine and I will run mine." —JOSEPHUS DANIELS, Sec'y of Navy in World War I, quoting his contemporary, LINDLEY HARRISON, Sec'y of War. (Asserting that divided command made possible the Pearl Harbor disaster, Mr DANIELS this wk wrote Congress endorsing the consolidation of Army and Navy.)

"Closed until tent blows back."—Sign posted by a Seabee barber in the Aleutians, when a williwaw blew his barber tent away.

"It's as easy as knitting!"—Pvt EVA WAGNER, commenting on art of driving a jeep. (A sec'y in private life, she is now an instructor in motor transport course at Ft Oglethorpe, Ga.)

"I'm a Republican, not a Nazi!"—Edw JAS SMYTHE, publisher of *Our Common Sense*, a figure in mass sedition trial.

"It would take all the 10,000 architects in private practice five yrs to prepare plans for reinstating the bomb-damaged bldgs of London." — WALTER O HUDSON, sec'y Inst of Registered Architects, London.

"We can't accept your reservation. This hotel is restricted to civilians and commissioned military officers."—Clerk at Martha Washington hotel, Virginia Beach, Va., denying accomodations to wounded veteran who, with his wife, sought a room for a brief vacation.



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COLUMNIST'S COLUMN

The Big "If" . . .

RUTH MILLETT

"If you were engaged to a feller and he has his leg cut off, would you still be engaged to him?" A 19-yr-old boy who had lost a leg in battle asked that question of a nurse caring for the wounded on a hospital plane.

And the nurse, as recorded in a wkly magazine, answered, "Any American girl would."

Let's hope the nurse was right. And yet if our girls do stick loyally and lovingly by the boys who come back from war crippled and disfigured, it will be in spite of the ideas put in their heads by older folk who argue that a girl shouldn't marry a boy before he goes to war because he might not come thru it without serious injury.

That is a vicious idea to plant in the minds of girls. For if it takes root the girl who learns that her fiancé has lost a leg or an arm will think: "I'm lucky I did not marry him before he went away."

She won't be ready to meet him with the reassuring words which that 19-yr-old was wondering if he would hear: "Of course I'm still engaged to you. We will be married as soon as we can."

If we expect our boys to have the character and courage to risk their lives we certainly should expect our girls to have enough loyalty and compassion to stand by them if they come back wounded.

Perhaps they'll have that much character and that kind of love even tho they have been fed on a philosophy of self-interest, instead of being taught to feel humble before the sacrifices their young men are making.—*Scripps-Howard Newspapers.*

AGRICULTURE—Conservation

Show me an impoverished soil and I will show you an impoverished people.—Dr MARK A DAWBER, *Mountain Life and People.*

AMERICA

What is America? Well, it's wonderful. It's ambitious and enterprising, mean and cantankerous, it's big, optimistic, high-strung and real. There's too much politics-as-usual, business-as-usual, everything-as-usual. And yet it's brave and patriotic, belly-aching and fierce. It's 1-A and 4-F. It's "Any Bonds Today?" "Pistol-Packin' Mama" and "Shoo Shoo Baby." It's assembly lines and troop trains moving by night to ports of embarkation. It's know-how and invention and tomorrow wrapped into today. It's communiques and clap-trap . . . and casualty lists and a Christian crusade. I guess it comes down to this: America is what you are and what you make it.—CHARLES COLLINGWOOD, *CBS Correspondent.*

CHURCH—Attendance

Any golfer can be devout on a rainy Sunday.—*Louisville Courier-Jnl.*

CONSTRUCTION—History of

The bldg cycle in the history of American enterprise is . . . more than twice the length of the swings from prosperity to depression in industrial production and retail trade.—HENRY J KAISER, "Building the Future," *Survey Graphic*, 4-'44.

EDUCATION

The fact that whole nations have perverted their knowledge for the enslavement of neighboring lands does not invalidate education itself.

The classroom and the laboratory must preserve the lessons of history: that oppression cannot endure; that freedom is not automatic, but must be defended; that the law of compensation eternally holds good, and justice and right finally triumph; that there are recurrences of catastrophes, natural and man-made,—and that this present upheaval will end and man will ret'n to the arts, to trade and to peace.—ARTHUR H COMPTON (physicist and Nobel prize-winner) "Keep Faith in Schools," *Rotarian*, 5-'44.

Generals and the Presidency

"If forced to choose between the penitentiary and the White House, I would say the penitentiary. Thank you."—Gen WM T SHERMAN, 1864.

" "

"I will not accept if nominated and will not serve if elected."—Gen WM T SHERMAN, 1884.

" "

"If nominated, I should not refuse acceptance."—Gen ZACHARY TAYLOR, 1848.

" "

"I have decided that I shall actively campaign for the nomination. . . What do you wish me to do so far as my army command is concerned?"—Maj-Gen LEONARD WOOD, to Gen PEYTON C MARCH, 1919.

" "

"I am not seeking the nomination, but no patriotic American could decline to serve if called."—Gen JOHN J PERSHING, 1920.

" "

"I am convinced that the office of president of the U S is not such a very difficult one to fill, his duties being mainly to execute the laws of congress."—Adm GEO DEWEY, 1900.

EMPLOYMENT—Postwar

Full employment would be incompatible with the free enterprise system which carries with it the right to a normal float of unemployed.—JOHN F FENNELLY, addressing Investment Bankers Ass'n.

" "

Workers of the future will require fears of unemployment and poverty to insure the necessary drive in this world of internal and international competition.—*Bankers Mag* (London.)

" "

Victory plant bosses have confidence they can raise post-bellum productivity a third above peacetime levels. But they warn 100% employment and full factory capacity are as yet unattainable. That objective is not only beyond reach but also socially undesirable.—*Natl Whirligig* (an industrial service letter.)

FASHION—Male

COLOR. It's a word often heard in the barracks and foxholes of the Army and it goes something like this: "When I get back I'm going to buy a jacket with snappy green & yellow stripes and a pair of purple pants. Maybe a dark red hat with a flaming red band. And no more black evening suits or even midnight blue. I'm all for a light blue dinner jacket with maroon trousers."

It's easy to understand how important color has become to us after living in our present world of drab, colorless surroundings. We live in unpainted barracks; our clothes are either olive drab or dark blue. We eat from plain white plates. It all adds up tremendously to a keen desire for more color in our homes, and especially in our clothes, on returning to normal living.—Pvt EDWARD H BOSWORTH Jr, "From Khaki to Color," *Dep't Store Economist*, 5-44.

FREE ENTERPRISE

It seems that everybody is for free enterprise, even Earl Browder, and I presume if Diogenes were alive today he would have a phosphorescent lantern and be going up and down the streets trying to find somebody who did not believe in free enterprise.—ERIC A JOHNSTON, (pres, U S Chamber of Commerce), "America Unlimited," *Hdw Age*.

GOV'T—Ignorance of

If you want to lapse into obscurity, become a U S Senator. This is the finding of a recent survey of the Nat'l Opinion Research Center at the U of Denver. Only one out of three Americans—about 33%—can name both his U S Senators.—DAVID L COHN, "The Gentleman from Alabama," *Atlantic Monthly*, 5-44.

GUIDANCE

No man ever got lost on a straight road.—*Arkansas Baptist*.

HOME—Influence

We are aware of the influence of the church, but have never yet adequately evaluated the social influences of the home. Communities are collections of homes, and na-

tions are larger groups of communities. The decisions reached at council tables in the future are being determined today around our dining tables.—SIDNEY W POWELL, *Where are the People?* (Abingdon-Cokesbury.)

HOME FRONT

You can't do a 75% job back here and expect those on the fighting line to do a 100% job.—Lt-Gen SOMERVELL, commanding Gen'l Army Service Forces.

To the Garden!

Following is from a book on Gardening, written by WM COLES in 1657:

"And if Gentlemen which have little else to do, would be ruled by me, I would advise them to spend their spare time in their Gardens, than which there is no better way to preserve health. If a man want an Appetite to his victuals, the smell of the earth new turned up will produce it, and if he be inclined to a Consumption it will recover him. Gentlewomen, if the ground be not too wet, may do themselves much good by kneeling upon a Cushion and weeding."

Reprinted by DANIEL J FOLEY, in his introduction to *Vegetable Gardening in Color*.

INCONSISTENCY—Gov't Bureaus

Instructions for filling out priority application form WPB-1319 require 7½ pgs of fine print. On pg 5 appear these consecutive lines:

"Do not fill in blocks 2, 12 and 13."

"In block 12, state also why it is necessary to install the equipment at this time."

INDUSTRY—Postwar

Sec'y of Interior, Harold Ickes, has issued a post war plan (which business considers fantastic) for disposal of government-owned war plants. He suggests turning them over to war veterans to be operated after the war in competition with private industry. Such a move, said he, would prevent the plants from going "at a fraction of their cost to existing monopolies for the purpose of restricting competitive production."—*Tide*, 5-44.



**CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE**

One of the problems that has been concerning all religious denominations is an equitable plan of returning to civilian charges the chaplains now with our armed forces. In some instances, ministers have a definite "leave-of-absence" understanding with their congregations and will doubtless ret'n to churches formerly served. But this, in turn, will dislodge other ministers for whom satisfactory charges must be found. Retirement of some older men will, of course, ease the situation to some extent. A partial solution is suggested by Dr Alfred Carpenter, liaison officer of the So Baptist group, who estimates that 20% of his church's chaplains will remain in foreign countries "to promote Christian work among the civilian peoples."

Speaking of problems, American Legion has one with which leaders must certainly grapple: the women serving in this war are, of course, eligible for Legion mbrship. Already an occasional WAC, WAVE or Lady Marine, mustered out of service, has been enrolled by a Legion post. But with a much larger group in the offing, question is: Will the Legion of tomorrow become "co-educational"? Will the women be urged to form separate posts? Will they be absorbed by the present Legion auxiliary (comprised of wives of Legionnaires)? Latter solution was generally adopted for women veterans of last war (chiefly Army nurses) but with larger numbers now eligible, some other plan will probably be adopted.

Look for further tightening of Pullman accommodations. Many cars have been taken off service to transport wounded men to hospitals.



ARMY: Apparatus for transfusion of whole blood to wounded men within battle lines has been devised by Harvard Med School specialists at U S Army Hospital in England. Weighing only 35 lbs and simple to operate, same equipment can be used in emergency to draw blood from healthy donor, inject it into veins of wounded. Front-line infusions have heretofore been entirely of blood plasma.

AVIATION: Number of tests recently completed indicate nutritional needs of high altitude flyers vary widely from those of earth-bound. One set experiments draws conclusion that large am'ts of riboflavin (Vitamin G) protects against vascularization of cornea (resulting in bloodshot eyes). Climatic conditions also affect nutritional needs of flyers. Because gas in intestines expands at high altitudes, aviators are now instructed to abstain from carbonated beverages, gas-forming foods. (*Canadian Med Ass'n Jnl*; *War Medicine*.)

FOOD: A self-heating soup, developed in Britain, will be used by American troops. Fuse running thru center of can is lit; heats soup in 4 min.—(*RN, Jnl for Nurses*.)

MEDICINE: Utmost claimed for penicillin and related compounds is that they *weaken* germs, making it possible for white blood corpuscles to overpower them. Group of 12 scientists suggest possibility (not confirmed) that new compound, *chlorellin*, may *kill* germs. Unique in that it's 1st germ-discouraging compound found in green plant (fresh-water alga called *chlorella*) able to manufacture its own food out of natural raw materials. In early tests *chlorellin* checked growth of streptococcus and staphylococcus organisms.—(*Science*.)

LANGUAGE

As author of some of the world's longest plays, George Bernard Shaw has silently suffered for years from the English alphabet with 26 letters representing 26 speech sounds. Last week he erupted. In a letter to the *London Times* he offered to leave his fortune—"if war taxation leaves me anything to bequeath"—for the establishment of a 42-letter alphabet.

The dramatist points out that English speech has 42 sounds with the result that endless time is wasted in combining letter sounds to spell a simple word. "Multiply that fraction of a second by the number of times a word has to be written in the British empire and N America every hr, every day, every mo, every yr, every century, and the cost grows to billions of pounds. With a 35-letter alphabet Russia has a definite advantage."—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

MUSIC—Participation

You can have fun with music just as you can have fun with many other things you would not dream of considering seriously as an accomplishment. You can play, or sing, or compose music by yourself. So long as you enjoy it, that is enough.—SIGMUND SPAETH, *Fun With Music*.

PREPAREDNESS

Mrs Blossom of our Bridal Salon has a rather baffling case. Seems a pretty girl came in a yr ago, and had Mrs B help her choose one of Saks' best Lohengrin get-ups—shell pink satin embroidered with little pearl wedding rings. The girl paid for it, asked to have it held, and now she writes Mrs. B cheery little notes every few mo's, saying: "Haven't found a man yet, but hope to make it by June."—From an adv of SAKS-FIFTH AVE, N Y dep't store.

REFUGEE—Aid to Allies

A former millionaire German chemical mfr, now an American citizen, recalled some early correspondence with a firm in London. The letter dated back many yrs, to the period before Hitler ordered that no pictures of German factories should be printed.

From the files of the London firm he obtained the letterhead, with a picture of his factory, which Hitler had confiscated. He gave this letterhead to U S authorities, together with a map showing exact location of the factory. The air forces got the picture and map. Now there isn't any factory left.—*Farm Jnl*.

SAFETY—Safe Driving

Corning, N Y put up a traffic sign on a winding drive thru a park: "This road does not lead to anywhere very rapidly. If you are in a hurry, you are on the wrong road."

Traffic sign in a Pa village: "Slow; no hospital."—*Religious Telescope*.

SECRECY—in Wartime

Your mouth is the only front our enemies want opened.

Book Burning

Persecution fell not merely on the authors themselves, but on their very books; to the public hangman was given the task of burning the memorials of our noblest characters. They imagined, no doubt, that in those flames disappeared the voice of the people, the liberty of the Senate, the conscience of mankind. . .

Inquisitors deprived us even of the give and take of conversation. We should have lost memory itself as well as voice had forgetfulness been as easy as silence.—TACITUS, recording the History of Rome under the emperor DOMITIAN.

TEACHING—as Occupation

The teacher held up a small object, asked the class to identify it.

"It's a pay envelope," said one experienced young observer.

"Good! And what did it contain?"

"Your wages," was the prompt response.

"That's fine!" beamed the teacher. "Now, are there any questions?"

"Please, teacher," inquired one thoughtful child, "Where do you work?"—*Galt (Can) Reporter*.

"I think the Lord wants it . . ."

ANYA SETON opens her story *Dragonwyck* (Houghton, Mifflin, \$2.50) on a May evening, just a hundred yrs ago this month. It begins with a letter from Nicholas Van Ryn, fabulous lord of Dragonwyck, that mausoleum of a mansion situated on a bank of the upper Hudson, at a site accursed by the ancient Mohicans as the abode of evil spirits. To his distant cousin, Mistress Abigail Wells, of Horseneck, Conn, Nicholas had written: "My wife and I, having discussed the matter at some length, have decided to invite one of your daughters into our home for an extended visit."

And now, following the evening meal and family prayers, we find Abigail and Ephraim Wells, with their eldest daughter, Miranda, pursuing the subject of that letter:

"As for this letter," Ephraim spoke with finality, "I think the tone of it offensive. This fine relation of yours, Abby, writes as if he thought himself the King of Spain. What right has he to think I'd fair leap at the chance to send him one of my girls?"

"He doesn't mean it like that, I'm sure," said Abigail quickly. "It's only that the gentry have different ways of putting things."

"Oh, indeed," snapped Ephraim. "And since when, ma'am, do ye know all about the ways of gentry? We'll say no more about this." He put the letter back into his pocket. "I'll sit down now and answer it."

"Oh, Pa, please. . ." Miranda, galvanized into action, ran around the table and seized her father's arm. "Pa, listen—" She spoke breathlessly, her wits sharpened by desperation. "I have a—a feeling that I'm meant to go. I mean during worship tonight, I had a leading, truly I did. I think the Lord wants it. At least put it to the test, Pa, please, and see what happens."

"Are you speaking the truth, daughter? Search your heart."

Miranda nodded earnestly.

"Well, you may try the test," he said in a softer voice. He shoved the Bible over to her.

Miranda sighed with relief. There was still hope. The Bible test was used only in moments of grave

crisis, and its decision abided by as the manifest guidance of God.

She rested her hands on the great volume and sent up a fervent little prayer. If God wanted her to go to Dragonwyck, He would give her a sign. But she intended to do what she could as well. Had not Ephraim said God helps those who help themselves?

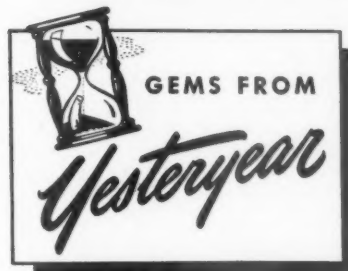
Her mind darted over various Bible stories. Of course, Hagar! And the page would fall open because Ephraim so often re-read the story of Abraham.

She shut her eyes, as was necessary to the test, opened the book, stole a lightning glance, then placed one slender finger-tip on a verse. She passed the Bible back to her father, who cleared his throat and read:

"And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread and a bottle of water and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder and the child, and sent her away; and she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba."

Ephraim stopped and looked suspiciously at his daughter. "It's none too fitting," he said grudgingly, "but it does seem to have some bearing. I'll sleep on the matter and pray over it."

It was on the morning of June fourteenth that Miranda began her journey to Dragonwyck.



Solace of Sorrow Abbe ERNEST DIMNET

In these times of trouble and of turmoil it may well be that we need a new philosophy of Sorrow, a new realization of the part that it can play in the moulding of our personal lives. Thus these words.

The Very Rev Abbe ERNEST DIMNET is a native of France, born in 1866. He was at one time a Professor of the College Stanislas, Paris, and until the outbreak of war was Canon of Cambray Cathedral. He is author of a number of books. The excerpt below is from his What We Live By (Simon & Schuster, '32.)

The world has a habit, which it is only too ready to crystalize into a theory to regard sorrow as a sin. It tells us to run away from it. There are well-known resorts, both in Europe and in America, which are sanctuaries against it, or the memory of it. People who go there after the loss of a beloved one are declared "fine" when they laugh. Senseless cowardice. Triumph of inanity. No man strong and brave enough to have set his all on a hope, or a love, will ever condescend to brush aside disappointment or bereavement. Only people of weak minds or feeble hearts can thus shrug away sorrow.

"But sorrow can be morbid, and doctors forewarn against it."

As they do about anything. Sorrow manfully braved and accepted can never be morbid, and has, many times, been a fountain of nobility. Read Tennyson's *In Memoriam*. Whenever you see on a person's face that exceptional depth or gravity which even the soulless envy, be certain that the chisel of sorrow has cut those marks thus deep. Brave sadness does for us what winter does for the earth.

TRANSPORTATION—Wartime

Cheerful comment of a N Y bus driver:

"Ladies & Gentlemen, the rear end of this bus is going to the same place as the front. Please move to the rear."—*Printers' Ink*.

VICTORY—Symbols

Remember back in those early days when we were naive enough to believe that chalking a "V" (for Victory) all over the lot would help to crack German morale?—"Scratch Pad" *Sales Mgt*.

A soldier on a long and weary march, felt something in his boot. At first a faint annoyance, it became increasingly painful with each added mile. His toe grew sorer and sorer; he was limping badly by the time he got back to camp. He took off his boot, shook it thoroughly, but could dislodge no foreign object. Somewhat puzzled, but measurably relieved, he removed his sock to bathe the blistered toe. It was then that a pellet of paper emerged from the toe of the sock. Wrathfully, the rookie picked it up, spread it out and with considerable difficulty deciphered the pencilled message: "God bless the soldier who wears these socks."—*Capper's Wkly.*

" "

Emily Kimbrough, in the film capital to aid in making the movie, *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay*, attended a party on the day of Mussolini's resignation. Knowing Hollywood's predilection with its own affairs, she made a bet that there would be no mention of the Mussolini news. It seems she lost the bet: someone remarked, "Too bad this stuff about Mussolini had to happen today or Lana Turner would have made the front pages with the birth of her baby."—*PM.*

" "

The Yanks in Australia are making a great hit with the girls. But now and then they run into a bit of language trouble. I met one down there with a black eye. I asked what had happened. "Well," he explained, "I went out with an Aussie girl. I told her I wanted a kiss. I thought she said 'now.' It seems what she really said was 'no!'"—*PHYLLIS BROOKS*, one of the 1st women to tour s-w Pacific for USO, in a *Report to the Nation* broadcast.

" "

One hillbilly's wife is visiting another's and the hostess calls the visitor's attention to some gossamer hangings across the empty window space.

"New curtains, eh," sniffs the visitor. "Gittin' a mite hightoned, ain't ye?"

"Naw," says the hostess. "Just got us a new spider."—*Investment Dealers' Digest.*

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

LAUGHS WITH LEGISLATORS

Rep CLARE BOOTHE LUCE
of Conn

Some mo's ago, a man from one of the Gov't dep'ts called my office and asked, "What is Mrs Luce going to do about those termites in the White House swimming pool?"

My sec'y, a bit confused, called me at the House and relayed the message. By the time I got back to my office to try to find what it was all about, the matter had been cleared up. The man had called in response to a memo on his desk to call a "Mrs Loose" about the termites.

My comment was that while I had known there were termites in the White House, I had always thought they were fourth-termites!

You may call a woman a kitten, but you must not call her a cat.

You may call her a mouse, but you must not call her a rat.

You may call her a chicken, but you must not call her a hen.

You may call her a duck, but you must not call her a goose.

You may call her a vision, but you must not call her a sight.

—*Good Housekeeping.*

" "

GI's abroad now refer to cooties as "mechanized dandruff".



A modest girl never pursues a man. Nor does a mousetrap pursue a mouse.—*Army and Navy Jnl.*

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Cynic's definition of a Wedding: A funeral where you smell your own flowers.

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Our ambition: to live long enough to see what kind of an earth the meek are going to inherit.—*Grit.*

" "

Too many persons cast a crust of stale bread upon the waters and expect a 7-course dinner in ret'n.

A soldier friend of ours, up from the South, told us he had got invited to a dinner in someone's home down there. When he arrived his hostess introduced him to her 12-yr-old son.

The lad looked up from a book long enough to grin, then went on reading. "I'm taking a trip to N Y next wk," the mother said, "and he's reading up on the city."

Later, our friend got a look at the title of the book. It was *Adrift in N Y*, by Horatio Alger, Jr.—*New Yorker.*

" "

The farmer was trying unsuccessfully to get two mules into a certain section of his field when the parson came by.

"You're just the man I want to see," exclaimed the farmer. "I want to know how Noah ever got these things into the Ark?"—*Successful Farming.*

